

## KING ALFONSO AIDS WAR VICTIMS

Royal Palace at Spain Besieged With Letters to Assist Unfortunates.

LONDON, May 12.—Describing the great work of relieving some of the suffering and anxiety of the war which is being carried out by King Alfonso of Spain, an Englishwoman writes from Madrid:

"The royal palace of Madrid has been the scene of many strange events in the course of its chequered history, and today something is happening which may not, indeed, arrest the attention of the historian, but which will leave a lasting impression in many a home throughout the length and breadth of Europe. "One day, a year or so ago, a despairing mother wrote to King Alfonso, imploring his help to find her missing soldier son. The king made inquiries through his ambassador in Berlin, and the missing son was found. The good deed could not be hid, and letters began to arrive from all the belligerent nations and in many languages imploring his majesty's aid in some sorrowful quest. The king, with his habitual generosity, undertook the work of mercy with a right good will and no small success, and the flood of correspondence greatly increased.

"In the northeast corner of the palace, under the direction of Don Emilio de Torres, the king's private secretary, an office has been organized which, from small beginnings, is ever assuming larger proportions. "Spain is charged with the interests of all the allied nations except England, but in Berlin and Vienna, and with the interests of Austria in Rome.

Letters Are Varied.  
"No two letters are alike. The petition may refer to some officer or soldier of one of the allied armies, last heard of on any field of battle from Flanders to the Bukovina, from the Baltic to Mesopotamia, to a missing family in the occupied provinces of France or Belgium; to a wounded soldier to be released, or a condemned civilian to be reprieved. "It may ask for news of a long lost child or petition for a marriage by proxy; it may be signed by the greatest lady in the land, or by the humblest cottager; all receive equal attention.

"Each letter is docketed, indexed, and filed according to the subject matter and the country of origin, and acknowledged by return of post. The request is then forwarded with full particulars to Senor Polo de Casales in Vienna, and through them to the German or Austrian governments.

"The reply, as soon as received, is conveyed in a tactfully worded letter to the inquirer, often anticipated by a telegram if the news is good, and accompanied if had by an expression of the king's personal condolence; in this case the bad news is broken through the priest or the mayor of the parish, so that it may be broken gently and opportunely.

Send 200,000 Missives.  
"Some idea of the extent of the work may be gathered from the fact that nearly 200,000 letters have already been dealt with from France alone, while the postal and telegraphic expenses are said to have amounted in two months to about \$2,000.

"As English interests in Berlin are in the hands of the American ambassador, etiquette requires that inquiries relating to British subjects should be made through him alone; but, whether owing to a misunderstanding or to the strong attraction exercised by the chivalrous character of the king of Spain upon all those in distress, letters soon begin to arrive from England also.

"When it is suggested that his majesty might well be excused from accepting this additional burden, he replies: 'Not at all, I am colonel of a British regiment; they are all my comrades in arms. I shall do what I can for them.' And so he does, the inquiry being forwarded in each case through the kind offices of the American ambassador in Berlin.

"The labor entailed by this delicate and more complicated task is both arduous and exacting, but no work in Madrid is more eagerly or conscientiously performed. The care which Senor de Torres has bestowed upon the minutest details of the organization, the great tact with which he has chosen the form of words to be employed in each individual case, proclaim at every stage that this is

## British Trench Mortar



BRITISH TRENCH MORTAR. ©INTL. FILM SERVICE.

This picture gives a good idea of the appearance and the manner of using the little bomb-hurling trench mortars, now so widely used in the trench warfare on the western front. In the picture British soldiers are about to fire a bomb from their trench into the trenches of the Germans, not more than 100 yards away.

truly a labor of love; and the king's personal attention and the gentle influence of Queen Victoria are apparent at every stage of the operations."

## SHERMAN TAKES UP FIGHT AGAINST WATERWAY BILL

Urges Amendment to Permit Illinois to Continue Work on Canal to Lake Michigan.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Sen. Sherman took up the fight against the \$45,000,000 rivers and harbors appropriation bill Thursday after Sen. Kenyon had spoken more than two days against the measure.

The Illinois senator was speaking when the senate recessed Thursday night until 11 o'clock Friday. He attacked the general provisions of the bill, and urged an amendment to permit the state of Illinois to continue work on its project for a waterway between the Mississippi river and Lake Michigan.

Before he yielded the floor Sen. Kenyon gave notice that he would resume later his effort to have adopted his substitute which would appropriate a lump sum of \$20,000,000 to be expended on river and harbor work by the war department.

## BRITAIN AGREES TO U. S. FEEDING POLAND

Agreement Specifies Relief Shall Apply to Russian Poland as Whole.

LONDON, May 12.—The British government has agreed to a plan whereby the civilian population of Poland may be fed by the American commission. The agreement specifies certain additions to German guarantees covering the distribution of food, before the permission becomes effective.

The chief points in the additions proposed by the British government to the German guarantees are stipulations providing that the relief shall apply to Russian Poland as a whole, instead of to the portion occupied by the Germans, and an undertaking on the part of the German and Austrian governments adequately to feed Serbia, Albania and Montenegro.

## SENATOR STONE SAYS "SHUT-UP"

Man From Missouri in Favor of Americans Keeping Still at This Time.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, May 12.—In these days of international crisis, grave situations, strained relations and threatened war, no one has done so much as to keep congress calm and in an attitude of "let will do it," than Sen. William Joel Stone, "Gum Shoe Bill" of Missouri, chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations.

"This is a good time for every one to keep his head cool and his mouth shut," has been Stone's motto since the war broke out. Every time congress, deluged by peace and war propaganda, has threatened to "blow up," "kick over the traces," or do other things congresses of the past were so fond of doing in defiance of presidents, Sen. Stone has been on the job with a heavy wet blanket to smother out the flame before it got beyond control.

Several times, notably when the Gore and McLemore resolutions were before congress, senators and congressmen got unruly and threatened no longer to "stand hatched," but in the end, after much oratory had been spouted, Sen. Stone and his henchmen always checked the insurgent movements. It often required all his skill to keep the senate corralled, but the political dexterity which earned him the name "Gum Shoe Bill" back in Missouri enabled him to apply sedatives to congressional nerves whenever the war alarms were sounded.

Is Connecting Link.  
Stone has been the connecting link between the white house and the capitol since international crises came into vogue and diplomatic relations began to be strained. Whatever the president has wanted congressional leaders to know about the "inside" of international situations he usually told Sen. Stone. Whenever congress became restive and the president wanted to "get a line" on its feelings, the president called Sen. Stone and interviewed him. How accurately Sen. Stone "sized up" congressional situations has been demonstrated by the failure of all measures seeking to interfere with the president's handling of diplomatic affairs.

Sen. Stone doesn't often agree with the president. His radical disagreement with the president on the submarine issue is a matter of history. But he believes with the president that congress should take no action that might embarrass diplomatic negotiations and on this basis he has consistently "squashed" every budding movement to influence executive action in the country's foreign affairs. He has frequently jeopardized friendly relations with some of his most intimate colleagues by putting his foot down hard on their proposals even when he personally sympathized with them.

Aimed at Peace.  
Through all the present turmoil in which he is playing such a conspicuous part, Sen. Stone has his aims centered upon peace. He would like to see everything settle bloodlessly and congress adjourned before the middle of the summer. He would like to spend a long vacation back in Missouri, "where folks don't think of him as the chairman of the committee on foreign relations but as their friend 'Old Bill Stone.'" He has two main hobbies—his grandchildren, and fried chicken—three times a day—and there isn't any place in the world like Missouri for both, he says.

The eminent English physicist, Thomson, explains the phenomenon giving radium its name as a gradual loss of some of the ions of its atomic systems, and thus is explained the evidence that its rays behave more like matter than like the waves of heat and light.

Good and Krantz were caught underneath. McCauley and Utter were taken to Alexandria hospital at Alexandria, Va. Dudley, at first reported uninjured, later was discovered to have been hurt seriously internally. He was removed this afternoon to Emergency hospital in Washington.

The hydro-aeroplane was one of the biggest in the country. It was on a test trip. It was first reported that Bert Accosta, a Washington aviation student, was one of those drowned. Later it was found that at the last moment Accosta had gone to Newport News by train and Krantz had taken his place.

## STATE G. A. R. MEETING CLOSSES AT EVANSVILLE

Business Sessions and Election of Officers Feature of Final Hours of Encampment.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., May 12.—The annual state encampment of the G. A. R. and six allied organizations closed here Thursday night with business sessions and the election of officers. The following were elected officers:

Sons of Veterans—Division commander, Addison McConkey, Bloomington; senior vice commander, H. N. Hopkins, Evansville; junior vice commander, Lee Leffler, Losansport; division council—T. W. Allen, Indianapolis; F. C. Focht, Winchester; F. E. Watson, Goldsmith; delegates to national encampment—David Van Dyke, Bloomington; T. W. Lindsey, Evansville; W. P. Taylor, Indianapolis; press correspondent, L. E. Handley, Richmond.

Woman's auxiliary, Sons of Veterans—Division president, Mrs. Claudia Erther, Indianapolis; vice president, Mrs. Anna Hewson, Bloomington; council—Lydia Bornholt, Valparaiso; Cora Schwartz, Indianapolis; chaplain, Mrs. Florence G. Allen, Marion; treasurer, Lella Young, Indianapolis; inspector, Elizabeth Iretton, Richmond; patriotic instructor, Mrs. Laura C. Lawwender, Danville; secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Smith, Indianapolis; chief of staff, Addie M. Wallace, Indianapolis; judge advocate, Frank Shellhouse, Indianapolis.

Indoor horseshoes has this winter been the official recreation at Metz, this Metz being in Kansas.

## UNINVITED GUEST NEARLY BREAKS UP THE PARTY

Calls Up All Invited Ones and Tells Them There "Ain't Goin' to Be Any Party."

International News Service: NEW YORK, May 12.—A remarkable story of how a dinner dance at Sherry's, given by Mrs. William Diston, a well known society leader, was almost made a fiasco through the machinations of a woman who had not been invited Thursday became public.

Invitations had been sent to 167 members of society and Mrs. Diston was dressing in the evening on the day the function was to have taken place when one of the guests called her to the telephone and condoled with her on the death of the near relative which had necessitated the recalling of the invitations. The friend told her that a woman representing herself as Mrs. Diston's ambassador had telephoned to all the invited guests recalling the invitations on account of the death of a relative of Mrs. Diston. Mrs. Diston assured her friends that the message was false. She hurried to Sherry's, secured every wire in the hotel, enlisted the services of many attaches and telephoned to every one of the invited guests. In this manner the dance was held.

She later discovered that a woman of good social position had been the guilty person, but decided not to prosecute her.



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